OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
INSPECTIONS UNIT

ALPR Audit
3rd Quarter FY 24-25

Completed: 4-16-2025

Purpose

DOI 1110-07 describes the management of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) and internet protocol camera systems. Specifically, the policy dictates “All data obtained and stored through use of ALPRs is considered a record of a criminal investigation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4 and shall be used solely for the purpose of attempting to prevent, solve, or detect violations of the law”. The policy also dictates storage and preservation of data. Per policy and general statute, the ALPR system shall be audited annually. The Inspections Unit has been tasked with conducting quarterly audits of the ALPR systems concerning their use and effectiveness.

Method

The Raleigh Police Department currently utilizes two ALPR systems, FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN. A representative from the Inspections unit maintains an administrative license to both systems for purposes of conducting periodic audits. There are five areas inspected during the quarterly audit: user accounts, devices, transactions/queries, reason codes, and outcomes. Inspection of these areas helps ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 and NCGS 20-183.32, as well as providing data on the use and effectiveness of the systems.
For this audit a member of the Inspections Unit selects a 30-day period during the fiscal quarter and runs queries for each of the focus areas within the confines of that particular system. Not all information is available from each system due to the design of their programs.

Inspection

The Inspections Unit conducted an audit of the FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN systems. Data was pulled from each system for the month of January 2025 (1/1/25 – 1/31/25).

FLOCK

Users

On the date the data was pulled there were 374 users listed as active. 126 of those users had logged into the system at all during the 3rd fiscal quarter (1/1/25 – 3/31/25).

Devices

There are 30 active FLOCK devices. All 30 were online at the time of the audit.

Transactions

During the month of January 2025, there were a total of 3998 queries/searches of the FLOCK database. Approximately 733 of these queries did not have a proper reason code listed (This is in line with the last audit). 100 different users are responsible for the improper reason codes. Of those 100 only 24 had more than 10 errors and 9 had more than 20. Proper reason codes are listed in the Patrol Resource Guide and include a case number, CAD incident number, CR number, or name. Most of the improper codes were a description of the crime being investigated. Proper reason codes are necessary to ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4.

Outcomes

During the month of January 2025, 33 cases were listed as being assisted or closed based on a notification from the FLOCK system. Out of those 33 cases, 14 vehicles were recovered, and 11 persons were arrested or warrants issued.

Vigilant LEARN

Users

On the date the data was pulled there were 497 users in the database. Only 119 of those accounts were in active status. 5 were closed; the others were all either pending or inactive. 47 users have logged in during the 3rd fiscal quarter (1/1/25 – 3/31/25).

Devices

The database of cameras utilized in the Vigilant LEARN system are made up from a multitude of agencies and commercial entities all over the country. Raleigh PD does maintain 16 mobile devices installed on patrol vehicles.

Transactions

During the month of January 2025, there were 674 queries run in the Vigilant LEARN database. All queries had a proper case number or other identifier listed. Case numbers are necessary to ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4.

Outcomes

The Vigilant LEARN system does not maintain this type of information.

Recommendations:

- Continue to reiterate the importance of reason codes/case numbers for queries.
- The RIC Sgt should identify users who routinely do not comply with reason codes as outlined in DOI and take corrective action.
- Investigate the pros and cons of expanding DOI to include nature of the crime as a proper reason code. This would lower the incorrect coding to 22.

Please contact Lt. J.S. Hourigan or Sgt. B.M. Norton with any questions or concerns.